

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6389

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1329

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR VS ID

SUBJ: GOI/GVN CONTINENTAL BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REF: A. JAKARTA 661 B. JAKARTA 7994 OF 6/28/74(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURINGRECENT MEETING WITH
EMBOFF, TRISULO (PERTAMINA DIRECTOR AND HEAD GOI
TECHNICAL TEAM) CONFIRMD REPORT REFTEL A THAT
PERTAMINA HAS ISSUED INVITATION FOR GVN TO SEND
TECHNICAL TEAM TO JAKARTA IN FEBRUARY FOR OVERLAPPING
BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS. TRISULO'S COMMENTS INDICATED:
1) BASIC GOI OBJECTIVE WAS TO DEFEND ARCHIPELAGO
PRINCIPLE; 2) GOI TECHNICAL TEAM NOT LIKELY BE ABLE
TO OFFER COMPROMISE SOLUTION DURING FEBRUARY MEETING;
AND 3)TONE OF FEBRUARY MEETING, WHICH WILL DEPEND
IMPORTANTLY ON SELECTION TEAM MEMBERS, MAY BE AS
IMPORTANT AS SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY

2. EMBOFF MET WITH TRISULO (PERTAMINA DIRECTOR FOR
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION AND CHIEF GOI SOUTH CHINA
SEA TECHNICAL TEAM), AT TRISULO'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS
GOI/GVN OVERLAPPING CLAIMS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA (MEMCON
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POUCHED). TRISULO, WHO IS ARRANGING DETAILS UPCOMING

TECHNICAL TEAM MEETINGS WITH MR NANG (CHIEF GVN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JAKARTA), CONFIRMED PERTAMINA ISSUED INVITATION TO GVN FOR MEETINGS IN JAKARTA EITHER SECOND OR FOURTH WEEK FEBRUARY.

3. COMPOSITION OF TEAM. TRISULO SAID NANG ASKED IF PERTAMINA WOULD OBJECT IF MR TRAN VAN KHOI (EXEC DIR GVN NATIONAL PETROLEUM BOARD WHO SIGNED UNFORTUNATE LETTER TO AGIP LAST MAY--RETEL B) WAS MEMBER OF GVN DELEGATION. ALTHOUGH TRISULO SAID HE TOLD NANG IT WAS UP TO GVN TO SELECT TEAM MEMBERS, TRISULO GAVE EMBOFF IMPRESSION HE WOULD PREFER THAT KHOI NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS. HE DESCRIBED KHOI AS VERY AMBITIOUS WITH ASPIRATIONS TO BECOME GVN MINISTER. (FYI. NANG EVIDENTALLY DREW OPPOSITE CONCLUSION--SEE RETEL A. END FYI). TRISULO WAS RELUCTANT GIVE EMBOFF NAMES OF ALL GOI TEAM MEMBERS BUT CONFIRMED HARSONO (DEPUTY CHIEF PERTAMINA'S FOREIGN CONTRACTOR DIVISION AND MEMBER LOS TEAM) AND HASJIM DJALAL (LOS EXPERT AND COUNSELOR INDON EMBASSY SINGAPORE) WOULD PARTICIPATE. TRISULO REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT GOI TEAM WOULD BE COMPETENT TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL (NOT POLITICAL) ISSUES ONLY.

4. GOI POSITION. TRISULO SAID, "ABOVE ALL, GOI TEAM MUST DEFEND AND PROTECT THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE." HE EMPHASIZED GOI COULD NOT ABANDON APPLICATION OF "BASELINES DRAWN FROM OUTERMOST ISLANDS" PRINCIPLE AND CRITICIZED GVN FOR APPARENTLY APPLYING OUTERMOST ISLANDS CONCEPT IN ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES WITH CAMBODIA AND THAILAND AND "MAINLAND CONCEPT" WITH INDONESIA. FURTHER COMPLICATING GOI POSITION IS FACT GOI/PERTAMINA AWARDED DISPUTED AREA TO AGIP IN 1969 AND, ACCORDING TRISULO, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR PERTAMINA TO OFFER AGIP OTHER AREA IN COMPENSATION IF COMPROMISE MADE WITH VIETNAMESE. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE LEARNED PHILLIPS AND TENNECO, BOTH PARTNERS WITH AGIP, MAY BE AWARDED BLOCK IN AREA RELINQUISHED BY AGIP AND SMALL PART OF BLOCK FALLS NEAR BOTTOM PART OF DISPUTED AREA. TRISULO SAID IT WOULD BE VERY

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DIFFICULT FOR INDONESIAN TO OFFER COMPROMISE.

5. COMMENT: TRISULO'S COMMENTS ARE NOT ENCOURAGING. GIVEN PROBABILITY THAT NEITHER SIDE WILL BE PREPARED GIVE MUCH, AT LEAST DURING FIRST MEETING, WE SHOULD EXERT SUCH INFLUENCE AS WE HAVE TO DIMINISH EXPECTATIONS OF IMMEDIATE RESULTS. EMPHASIS TO BOTH SHOULD BE ON LISTENING TO OTHER SIDE SO THAT, FOLLOWING

SUCH MEETING, AREAS OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT CAN BE DETERMINED.

WE BELIEVE THAT TRISULO ACCURATELY PORTRAYS INDONESIAN POLICY WHEN HE PLACES MAJOR EMPHASIS ON PRIORITY OF PROMOTION OF ARCHIPELAGO THEORY. IT MAY BE THAT ACTUAL COMPROMISE LIE NOT IN DEFINING BOUNDARY BUT IN SOME FORM OF JOINT TEMPORARY EXPLOITATION OF DISPUTED AREA. NEWSOM

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